

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, paragraph 17 of the specification is revised to even more clearly incorporate by reference the SU-9182 product information, and claims 9 and 19 are amended. Thus, the issue of whether such product information is incorporated by reference is moot.

Moreover, paragraph 9 states that the covering can be that product; and original claim 6 recited that the SU-9182 product is used for the covering. These two descriptions incorporated the SU-9182 information by reference.

Although the December 10, 2002 Advisory Action alleges that SU-9182 “does not fully support the recitation at issue” no reasons and no indication of the allegedly missing subject matter are provided.

In addition to the amendments and arguments made in the Amendment filed on November 21, 2002, claims 9 and 19 are further amended to more clearly recite that the adhesive closing part has first and second opposite surfaces and has adhering elements extending from the first surface. In this manner, the foam-inhibiting covering is on the second surface, opposite the first surface, such that the covering is remote from the adhering elements. Additionally, the permanent magnets are recited as being placed laterally about the periphery of the portion of the mold receiving the adhering elements.

The previously submitted claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,442,156 to Billarant in view of International Application WO 86/03164 to Provost. In contrast to the recitations of claims 9 and 19, the Billarant temporary protective film 20, relied upon as the foam-inhibiting covering, is on the first surface of the adhesive closing part, i.e., that surface from which the closing elements 18 extend. Thus, the Billarant protective film 20 is adjacent to and not remote from the adhering elements as recited in claims 9 and 19.

Additionally, claims 9 and 19 recite that the permanent magnets are laterally spaced about a periphery of a portion of the mold receiving the adhering elements and cooperate with the peripheral border of the covering. In contrast, the Billarant magnet 52 is located within the mold recess receiving the adhesive closing part, and is not laterally about the periphery of that portion of the mold as recited in claims 9 and 19.

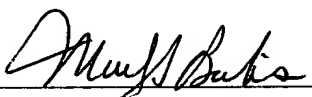
Further, claim 9 is revised to recite that the ferromagnetic coating extends throughout the entire length and width of the covering. In contrast, the magnetic strip 22 only extends throughout a part of the covering and not about its entire length and width. Particularly, the Billarant magnetic contracting strip does not extend beyond the periphery of the surface area of the adhering elements as required by claim 9.

Accordingly, claims 9 and 19 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Billarant patent considered individually or in combination with the Provost International application or any other cited patent or publication. Additional arguments are contained in the previously filed Amendment, which reasons are not repeated to avoid burdening the record.

In view of the foregoing, claims 9-19 are allowable. Prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Jan 14, 2003



Mark S. Bicks
Reg. No. 28,770

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, L.L.P.
1300 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 659-9076